

For Immediate Release:

San Juan Islands Museum of Art & Sculpture Park Announcement: IMA Board of Directors Appoints new IMA & SP Director - Jennifer Elise

The San Juan Islands Museum of Art and Sculpture Park (IMA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Jennifer Elise as the new Director of the San Juan Islands Museum of Art and Sculpture Park (IMA).



Upon her appointment, Ms. Elise stated, "Connecting people with the visual arts through the IMA museum, Sculpture Park and educational programs is important for the health and vitality of our community and I am excited to be involved in the development and growth of this organization."

"The expansion of IMA's Board of Directors, with Charlie Bodenstab as president, has ensured that the organization will benefit from a diversity of experience," said Bo Turnage, Board Vice President. "Charlie Bodenstab's proven leadership skills and extensive management experience has been of great value to IMA as we've focused on the development of programs to enhance our community. Now we are thrilled with this appointment of a permanent director who comes to IMA with great museum and business experience."

After the former director's resignation and move to New York City, Susan Key became an interim organizational consultant for IMA, helping to identify areas of improvement and making recommendations for possible solutions. Susan's work is now completed, and the Board has selected the new permanent IMA Director, Jennifer Elise.

Ms. Elise is a newcomer to the Island, who brings to the Museum and the Park a strong background in the arts and business management. She received her degree in Accounting at the University of Arkansas; Little Rock, AR., and was a founding Board Member of the Las Vegas Art Museum and served on their Art Education Committee. In addition, she served as: an art teacher, a commissioned portrait artist, an illustrator, a bank auditor, and a advertising, public relations, and marketing specialist. She will be leaving her position with Pel-Freez Inc. in Friday Harbor to join the IMA organization on Friday, May 13, 2011.

Please stop into the Museum on Spring Street to say hello, introduce yourself, and take a longer look at the Steve Harrold Exhibition, which includes a strong set of work in both Gallery I and Gallery II. Bring the children and involve them in an activity that Jennifer has created for the family.

Jennifer Elise stated that the Steve Harrold Exhibition is fascinating for adults and children alike, because the artist has been able to bring out the Rube Goldberg qualities of rural America, straight from his childhood on the farm in Indiana, after a long career with IBM and Boeing in Manhattan and Seattle. These pieces of sculpture, wire drawings, and paintings

help one to look at the agri-farm machinery from past memory; recalling those smells and sounds; and looking at that loose hay before it is bailed and piled high .

" There is a beautiful 'coming together' of beauty and task or function within his work," she said. The work is about transitions, about changes in history, changes in relationships, and connections between man and nature and machinery, yet it is fun and whimsical and dimensional. "We all need to learn to hang on to our memories and take time to reflect and smile and tell our own stories in the process. This Steve Harrold Exhibition will allow you to do just that," she said.

IMA announced that the Museum and Sculpture Park events, exhibitions, and activities will be brought together under Jennifer's able and capable leadership. Jennifer has stated that one of her goals is to develop a Sculpture Park and Museum Docent Program that is modeled after the very successful San Juan Island Community Theater CATS Program.

Also, as a point of information, over 20 pieces of new work will be sited in the Park by the 4th of July. Most of the work will be in place by June 18. Events with music and food are planned for the Park this summer in addition to the Saturday Family Art Days in July and August. Tom Small has been selected as the 2011 Sculpture Park Artist in Residence. Check this out on our web site <http://www.sjima.org>

IMA Board of Directors: Charlie Bodenstab, Beth Hetrick, David Jenkins, George Johnson, Marilyn Luckman, Rikki Swin, and Bo Turnage